

Chronology of Major Events in the History of the Louisiana State Archives

1935

Noted Louisiana historian, Dr. Edwin A. Davis, convinced the administration of Louisiana State University that it should establish and fund an independent Department of Archives and Manuscripts to collect and preserve archival materials. Davis was then appointed director of the university archives.ⁱ

1936

Davis spearheaded passage of legislation enabling the university to act as the repository for public records of state government. Act 258 empowered the university to collect state documents and authorized officials to submit their records to the repository.ⁱⁱ

1937-1941

Dr. John Andreassen directed the Historical Records Survey of Louisiana.ⁱⁱⁱ

1940

The Public Records Act of 1940 (Act 195) stipulated that virtually all records generated for the conduct of business under the authority of the State of Louisiana were declared public records.^{iv}

1954

Davis took temporary leave of his post at Louisiana State University to spearhead the effort to establish a viable state archives.^v

1956

Davis spearheaded passage of the State Archives and Records Act (Act 337 of the 1956 Regular Session) signed by Gov. Earl Kemp Long establishing the State Archives and Records Service as an independent agency under the aegis of the State Archives and Records Commission composed of the secretary of state, the attorney general and the state auditor.^{vi}

1958

Andreassen was appointed director of the Louisiana Archives and Records Commission.^{vii}

1960

John E. Regard was appointed director of the State Archives and Records Commission.^{viii}

1961

State Archives, under the direction of Regard, acquired the historically significant colonial and territorial records from Avoyelles Parish. In addition, Archives also received the extensive records of the French Colonial Post at Opelousas.^{ix}

1965

Raymond Downs was appointed director of the State Archives and Records Commission.^x

1966

A. Otis Hebert was appointed director of the State Archives and Records Commission.^{xi}

1966

Provisions made by the state for removing the State Archives from Peabody Hall on the LSU campus to a renovated motorcycle dealer's warehouse on Choctaw Drive^{xii}

July 12, 1972

The State Archives and Records Commission was abolished and the State Archives became a division of the Secretary of State Office's under former Secretary of State Wade O. Martin.^{xiii}

Oct. 1974

Dr. Donald Lemieux was appointed director of the State Archives and Records Services.^{xiv}

June 15, 1979

Secretary of State Paul Hardy announced that the state had purchased a site for the new State Archives building at a cost of \$598,950.^{xv}

July 12, 1982

Funding for planning and construction of the State Archives building was approved by the Legislature

Oct. 23, 1984

Groundbreaking ceremony was held for the State Archives building^{xvi}

Aug. 24, 1987

The State Archives building was officially dedicated during the administration of Secretary of State Jim Brown.^{xvii}

April 5, 2000

Dr. Florent Hardy Jr. was appointed state archivist and director of the Division of Archives, History, and Records Management.^{xviii}

July 9-13, 2001

Archives Week Celebration: "Celebrate the Past...Prepare for a Better Future",^{xix}

July 8-14, 2002

Secretary of State Walter "Fox" McKeithen proclaimed Louisiana State Archives Week celebrating the 45th Anniversary of State Archives: "Celebrate the Past...Prepare for a Better Future".^{xx}

Oct. 10, 2002

Archives Week Celebration: "Preserving Louisiana's History Today; Recognition of Louisiana Legislators and Their Families Who in 1956 Authored Act 337 establishing the Louisiana State Archives",^{xxi}

Oct. 1-3, 2003

Archives Week Celebration: "Celebrate History: Use It and Preserve It",^{xxii}

Oct. 8, 2004

Archives Week Celebration: "Disaster Planning, Vital Records and Unforeseen Disasters",^{xxiii}

July 15, 2005

Secretary McKeithen resigns and First Assistant Al Ater assumed the position of secretary of state.^{xxiv}

Nov. 10, 2005

Archives Week Celebration: National Archivist's Visit Post Hurricane Katrina^{xxv}

Oct. 12, 2006

Archives Week Celebration: Symposium: “Protecting Louisiana’s Historical Records In Emergencies”^{xxvi}

Nov. 10, 2006

Jay Dardenne is sworn in as secretary of state.^{xxvii}

2007

Archives Week Celebration: “Celebrate a Patchwork of History and Culture”^{xxviii}

Nov. 13, 2008

Friends of the Louisiana State Archives chartered as a non-profit corporation.^{xxix}

October 2009

Archives Month activities/presentations^{xxx}

October 2010

Archives Month Celebration^{xxxi}

Nov. 22, 2010

Secretary Dardenne is sworn in as lieutenant governor and First Assistant Tom Schedler is appointed to fill his unexpired term.^{xxxii}

October 2011

Louisiana celebrated Archives Month 2011^{xxxiii}

Oct. 22, 2011

Schedler is elected to a regular term as secretary of state.^{xxxiv}

ⁱ Legacy: The Newsletter of the State Archives & Records Service, Special Ground Breaking Issue, Vol.8, No.3, Oct. 1984

ⁱⁱ Louisiana Legislature 1936, Act 258

ⁱⁱⁱ American Archivist, Vol. 54, Summer 1991, Obituary of John Andreassen

^{iv} Louisiana Legislature 1940, Act 195

^v Legacy: The Newsletter of the State Archives & Records Service, Special Ground Breaking Issue, Vol.8, No.3, Oct. 1984

^{vi} Legacy: The Newsletter of the State Archives & Records Service, Special Ground Breaking Issue, Vol.8, No.3, Oct. 1984 and Louisiana Legislature 1956, Act 337

^{vii} American Archivist, Vol. 54, Summer 1991, Obituary of John Andreassen

^{viii} Louisiana State Archives & Records Commission Biennial Report, July 1960-June 1962

^{ix} Louisiana State Archives & Records Commission Biennial Report, July 1960-June 1962

^x Louisiana State Archives History Collections: 1956-present, Accession #P1995-4

^{xi} Louisiana History Newsletter, Vol. 2, No.1, Nov. 1976, Memorial to Otis Hebert

^{xii} Legacy: The Newsletter of the State Archives & Records Service, Special Ground Breaking Issue, Vol.8, No.3, Oct. 1984 and verified through employees still in service

^{xiii} Louisiana Legislature 1972, Act 691

^{xiv} Legacy: The Newsletter of the State Archives & Records Service, Special Ground Breaking Issue, Vol.8, No.3, Oct. 1984

^{xv} State Archives & Records Service Newsletter, Vol.III, No.4, Sept. 1979

^{xvi} Legacy: The Newsletter of the State Archives & Records Service, Vol.9, No.1, Winter 1985

^{xvii} Legacy: The Newsletter of the Division of Archives, Records Management, & History, Vol.11, No.1, Special Issue, 24 August 1987

^{xviii} Le Raconteur (publication of Le Comite des Archives de la Louisiane), Vol.XX, No. 2 August 2000

^{xix} Theme created for Archives Week. Archives week as part of the nationally recognized Archives month. Various presentations and activities in the Archives.

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^{xxiv} As per public knowledge via newspapers McKeithen resigns. As per the Louisiana Constitution, Ater, as first assistant, was not appointed at that time by McKeithen, but simply assumed the position of secretary of state as the first assistant.

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^{xxvii} As per public knowledge via newspapers and Louisiana Senate website

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^{xxix} As per Commercial Division; Corporations Database

^{xxx} Recognized nationally as Archives month. Breakfast for patrons and Friends of Archives, various presentations, extended hours in research library and genealogical conference in Archives.

^{xxxi} Recognized nationally as Archives month. Breakfast for patrons and Friends of Archives and other state archives poster display at our archives.

^{xxxii} As per public knowledge via newspapers and websites (secretary of state and Tom Schedler)

^{xxxiii} Recognized nationally as Archives month. Breakfast for patrons and Friends of Archives and other state archives poster display at our archives.

^{xxxiv} As per Elections Division